

Message Text

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

EMEMBASSY WARSAW 2728

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CINCPAC

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

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TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE,
VLADIVOSTOK

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD
CINCLANT FOR POLAD
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD
CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLAD
GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE
USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

REF: MOSCOW 18013 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. THE TASS RUSSIAN LANGUAGE REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE PUBLISHED IN THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS COVERS ALMOST IN THEIR ENTIRETY HIS OPENING REMARKS ON THE VLADIVOSTOK ARMS AGREEMENT, THOUGH IT DOES NOT MENTION THE NUMBERS AGREED UPON AND OMITS THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT THE LIMITS ARE EQUAL. HIS REMARKS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC SITUATION ARE ALSO COVERED, THOUGH IN LESS DETAIL. THE PROPAGANDA EXTOLLING THE IMPORTANCE OF VLADIVOSTOK CONTINUES IN FULL SWING. A LENGTHY SIGNED PRAVDA COMMENTARY ASCRIBES IMPORTANCE TO THE RESULTS OF VLADIVOSTOK IN ARRIVING AT A SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT CONTINUES POLITBURO DISTORTION (REFTEL) THAT SIDES AGREED ON "NECESSITY" OF "SOONEST" RECONVENING OF MEPC. THE COMMENTARY ALSO CONTENDS THAT THE "LIMITS OF THE POSSIBLE" HAVE BEEN "CLEARLY REVEALED" AT CSCE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS DECEMBER 3 AND 4 CARRIED A TASS SUMMARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF DECEMBER 3. THE SUMMARY COVERED ONLY THOSE PORTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS REFERRING TO VLADIVOSTOK AND THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE U.S., WITH NO MENTION OF OTHER NATIONS VISITED BY THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY. THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PORTIONS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE NOT COVERED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK IN ONE ANSWER IN WHICH HE SAID "I THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL BUY IT"--I.E. THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. THE RUSSIAN VERSION RECAST THIS REMARK IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SLIGHTLY MORE POSITIVE TERMS -- "THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE (UVERENNOST') THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL APPROVE THE AGREEMENT."

3. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT WERE COVERED IN THEIR ENTIRETY, THOUGH NOT AS DIRECT QUOTES, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

(A) IN LINE WITH STANDARD SOVIET PRACTICE ON QUESTIONS OF THIS NATURE, NEITHER THE NUMBER OF STRATEGIC DELIVERY SYSTEMS ESTABLISHED AS THE LIMIT NOR THE TYPE OF SYSTEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS LIMIT ARE REVEALED. SIMILARLY, NO NUMBER IS GIVEN FOR THE MIRV LIMIT. THE RUSSIAN PARAPHRASE SIMPLY REPORTS THAT THE SIDES "MANAGED TO ACHIEVE IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN THE SOLUTION OF TWO MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS," LIMITS ON DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND ON MIRV'ED MISSILES.

(B) THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT "WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS SET FIRM AND EQUAL LIMITS ON THE STRATEGIC FORCES OF EACH SIDE..." IS REPLAYED WITHOUT THE WORDS "...AND EQUAL...".

(C) THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT "IT WILL TAKE MORE DETAILED NEGOTIATION TO CONVERT THIS AGREED FRAMEWORK INTO A COMPREHENSIVE ACCORD" IS DROPPED ENTIRELY. HOWEVER, OTHER ARTICLES WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS DURING THE LAST WEEK (INCLUDING THE ONE DISCUSSED BELOW) HAVE POINTED OUT THAT MUCH WORK HAS YET TO BE DONE ON THE AGREEMENT.

4. IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA CARRIED, THOUGH KRASNAYA ZVEZDA OMITTED, A FURTHER TWO PARAGRAPHS ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE U.S. EXCERPTS ARE OF COURSE CHOSEN TO SHOW ECONOMY IN WORST LIGHT, BUT THERE ARE NO OUTRIGHT DISTORTIONS. MENTION IS MADE THAT PRESIDENT ASKED FOR ACTION IN CONGRESS ON THE TRADE BILL, WHICH THE TASS SUMMARY REMINDS ITS READERS CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR THE "ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATORY BARRIERS IN TRADE."

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5. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE SUMMARY, BY MAKING NO MENTION OF THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PORTION OF THE CONFERENCE, IS ABLE TO AVOID REVEALING THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THE QUESTION OF RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. A PRAVDA SIGNED COMMENTARY (O. KOLOSOV, V. NIKITIN) ON DECEMBER 4 REPEATS THE DISTORTION MADE IN THE POLITBURO EVALUATION OF VLADIVOSTOK (REFTEL) THAT BOTH SIDES HAD EMPHASIZED THE "NECESSITY" OF RECONVENING THE MEPC "SOONEST". THE ARTICLE ALSO ASCRIBES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE RESULTS OF VLADIVOSTOK ON THE MIDDLE EAST, CONTENDING THAT "ALONG WITH THE RECENT DECISIONS OF THE ARAB SUMMIT IN RABAT AND THE UNGA RESOLUTION ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION, THE RESULTS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING CREATE ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES FOR MOVEMENT FORWARD IN THE POLITICAL

REGULARIZATION" OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

6. THE COMMENTARY PRAISES THE COMMUNIQUE'S PROVISIONS ON CSCE AND ARGUES THAT THE "DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SIGNED AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL...IN THE NEAREST FUTURE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE LIMIT OF THE POSSIBLE AND THE IMPOSSIBLE IN THE REMAINING QUESTIONS HAS BEEN CLEARLY REVEALED, A LIMIT WHICH FULLY ALLOWS COMPLETION OF THE PREPARATION OF APPROPRIATE DECISIONS EVEN NOW. THEREFORE, FURTHER ARTIFICIAL DELAYS OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE SIMPLY MAKE NO SENSE..."

7. NEW MONTHLY TELEVISION PANEL SHOW, 9TH STUDIO, OFFERED FURTHER EXPLANATION OF OFFICIAL SOVIET LINE ON VLADIVOSTOK TO NATIONAL AUDIENCE TUESDAY NIGHT. MODERATOR ZORIN WAS JOINED BY TASS GENERAL DIRECTOR (AND BREZHNEV SPOKESMAN) ZAMYATIN, USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV AND PRAVDA FOREIGN EDITOR NEKRASOV. THEY PRAISED RESULTS OF SUMMIT ON THREE PRINCIPAL COUNTS: SALT UNDERSTANDING WAS LEADING TO PRESUMED AGREEMENT IN COMING YEAR, BOTH LEADERS ESTABLISHED A FIRM RELATIONSHIP, CAUSE OF PEACE IN WORLD WAS ADVANCED. WITH ZAMYATIN TAKING LEAD ON ALL FRONTS, DETRACTORS OF SUMMIT -- SENATOR JACKSON PROMINENT AMONG THEM -- WERE TAKEN TO TASK IN FIRM THOUGH NON-STRIDENT TONES.
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